

II. AMENDMENTS TO APPLICATION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the existing claims with the following set of claims in which claims 11-17, 21 and 35 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

1. (Originally Presented) A shielded electrical connector for mounting on a printed circuit board, comprising:
 - a dielectric housing including a plurality of terminal-receiving cavities and a plurality of board-engaging pads projecting from the bottom of the housing; a plurality of terminals received in said cavities; and,
 - portions of said housing between the terminals being plated with conductive metal material to electrically shield the terminals from each other, the plating being continuous onto said pads for connection to appropriate ground circuit means on the printed circuit board.
2. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said board-engaging pads are located between said terminal-receiving cavities.
3. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 1 wherein substantially the entire interior of said terminal-receiving cavities are plated with the conductive metal material, with the terminals being insulated therefrom.
4. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 3 wherein said board-engaging pads are located between said terminal-receiving cavities.
5. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said housing is molded of dielectric plastic material with the board-engaging pads being molded integrally therewith.
6. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 5 wherein substantially the entire housing, including the board-engaging pads, is plated with the conductive metal material, with the terminals being insulated therefrom.

7. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said board-engaging pads are configured for surface engaging the printed circuit board.
8. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 7 wherein said terminals include portions adapted for surface connection to appropriate circuit means on the printed circuit board.
9. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said terminals comprise elements of terminal modules, with the terminals mounted in respective dielectric blocks received in the terminal-receiving cavities of the housing.
10. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 9 wherein substantially the entire interior of said terminal-receiving cavities are plated with the conductive metal material.
11. Cancelled.
12. Cancelled.
13. Cancelled.
14. Cancelled.
15. Cancelled.
16. Cancelled.
17. Cancelled.
18. (Originally Presented) A shielded electrical connector, comprising:
 - a housing molded of dielectric plastic material and including a plurality of terminal-receiving cavities and a plurality of integrally molded board-engaging pads projecting from the bottom of the housing between the cavities;
 - a plurality of terminal modules received in said cavities, each module including at least one terminal mounted in a dielectric block received in a respective one of the terminal-receiving cavities of the housing; and,
 - portions of said housing between the terminal modules being plated with conductive metal material to electrically shield the terminals from each other, the

plating being continuous onto said pads for connection to appropriate ground circuit means on the printed circuit board.

19. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 18 wherein substantially the entire interior of said terminal-receiving cavities are plated with the conductive metal material.
20. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector of claim 19 wherein substantially the entire housing, including the board-engaging pads, is plated with the conductive metal material.
21. Cancelled.
22. (Originally Presented) A shielded electrical connector assembly, comprising:
 - a first shielded electrical connector including a first dielectric housing having a plurality of terminal-receiving cavities, a plurality of first terminals received in said cavities, and portions of said first housing between the terminals being plated with conductive metal material to electrically shield the terminals from each other;
 - a second shielded electrical connector including a second dielectric housing having a plurality of terminal-receiving cavities, a plurality of second terminals received in said cavities and mateable with said first terminals, and,
 - portions of said second housing between the second terminals being plated with conductive metal material to electrically shield the terminals from each other;
 - and complementary interengaging portions between said first and second housings of the first and second connectors, respectively, with the metal plating on the two housings being continuous onto the interengaging portions to conductively common the shielding between both the first and second connectors.
23. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 22 wherein said complementary interengaging portions between the first and second housings comprise a tongue-and-groove structure.

24. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 23 wherein said complementary interengaging portions between the first and second housings comprise a network of ribs on one of the housings interengaging within grooves in the other of the housings.
25. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 24 wherein said interengaging ribs and grooves extend between the respective terminals of the two connectors.
26. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 22 wherein substantially the entire interior of the terminal-receiving cavities in the dielectric housing of at least one of said connectors are plated with the conductive metal material, with the respective terminals being insulated therefrom.
27. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 26 wherein said board-engaging pads on the respective dielectric housing of at least one of said connectors are located between the respective terminal-receiving cavities of that connector.
28. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 22 wherein the dielectric housing of at least one of the connectors is molded of dielectric plastic material with the respective board-engaging pads of that housing being molded integrally therewith.
29. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 28 wherein substantially the entire dielectric housing of at least one of the connectors, including the respective board-engaging pads thereof, is plated with the conductive metal material, with the respective terminals being insulated therefrom.
30. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 22 wherein the dielectric housing of at least one of said connectors includes a plurality of board-engaging pads projecting from the bottom of the housing, with the plating of

conductive metal material being continuous onto said pads for connection to appropriate ground circuit means on an appropriate printed circuit board.

31. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 30 wherein said board-engaging pads are configured for surface engaging the printed circuit board.
32. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 31 wherein the terminals of said at least one connector include portions adapted for surface connection to appropriate circuit means on the printed circuit board.
33. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 22 wherein the terminals of at least one of said connectors comprise elements of terminal modules, with those terminals mounted in respective dielectric bodies received in the terminal-receiving cavities of the housing of the at least one connector.
34. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 33 wherein substantially the entire interior of the terminal-receiving cavities in the housing of said at least one connector are plated with the conductive metal material.
35. Cancelled.
36. (Originally Presented) The shielded electrical connector assembly of claim 22 wherein the housings of said first and second connectors include complementary interengaging latch means, with the plating of conductive metal material being continuous onto said latch means.

III. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants hereby submit an Information Disclosure Statement identifying art which may be relevant to a determination of patentability of the present invention. This includes prior art and the International Search report cited in a copending counterpart International Application, namely, PCT/US02/01807.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the applicable fee of \$180.00, any deficiencies in the fee, or credit any overpayments thereof to Deposit Account No. 50-1873.

The art cited includes the following:

I. U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,921,453 (OBRIEN)
2. U.S. Patent No. 4,969,827 (HAHS JR.)
3. U.S. Patent No. 4,969,842 (DAVIS)
4. U.S. Patent No. 5,028,492 (GUENIN)
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,061,198 (MANABE et al.)
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,344,341 (YOSHINO)
7. U.S. Patent No. 5,354,219 (WANJURA)
8. U.S. Patent No. 5,599,595 (McGINLEY et al.)
9. U.S. Patent No. 5,626,483 (NAITOH)
10. U.S. Patent No. 5,688,146 (McGINLEY et al.)
11. U.S. Patent No. 5,718,606 (RIGBY)
12. U.S. Patent No. 5,727,956 (MITRA)
13. U.S. Patent No. 5,743,765 (ANDREWS et al.)
14. U.S. Patent No. 6,375,506 (SAUNDERS et al.)
15. U.S. Patent No. 6,375,512 (ZITO et al.)
16. U.S. Patent No. 6,491,545 (SPEIGEL et al.)
17. U.S. Patent No. 6,702,590 (ZADEREJ et al.)
18. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/014629 Application Ser No. 09/818,797 (ZADEREJ et al.)

II. FOREIGN PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

19. European Patent Application No. 0 510 995 A2, October 28, 1992 (GRABBE et al.)
20. European Patent Application No. 0 693 795 A1, January 24, 1996 (ANDREWS et al.)
21. UK Patent Application No. 2,312,566, October 29, 1997 (MOTOROLA)
22. International Search Report in PCT Application No. PCT/US02/01807, the PCT counterpart of the present application.

It is believed that none of this prior art discloses or suggest the invention claimed in the pending claims. This submission is not to be considered as an admission that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be material to patentability nor is it a representation that a search has been made on the claimed subject matter.